

What is claimed:

1. An apparatus for forming and securing a decorative pleated cover about an outer peripheral surface of a pot, the apparatus comprising:
 - a frame assembly;
 - a platform connected to the frame assembly such that the platform extends outwardly from the frame assembly;
 - a pleating assembly supported on the platform, the pleating assembly defining a pot receiving opening sized and configured to receive at least a portion of a cover forming material and at least a lower portion of a pot; and
 - a banding assembly connected to the platform, the banding assembly supporting at least one band thereon such that upon forming a decorative pleated cover about the pot by positioning the pot and at least a portion of the cover forming material within the pot receiving opening of the pleating assembly, the decorative pleated cover so formed is secured about the pot by removing at least one band from the banding assembly and positioning at least one band about the decorative pleated cover.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 where the platform is provided with an upper surface and wherein the pleating assembly is supported on the upper surface of the platform such that the pleating assembly extends upwardly from the upper surface of the platform.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the pleating assembly comprises:

a lower body portion having an opening formed therein, the lower body portion supported on the upper surface of the platform; and

a plurality of spatially disposed pleat forming members disposed about the opening in the lower body portion and extending in an upwardly direction from the lower body portion, the plurality of spatially disposed pleat forming members cooperating with the opening in the lower body portion to define the pot receiving opening in the pleating assembly.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the banding assembly comprises a plurality of elongated posts extending from the upper surface of the platform, the elongated posts disposed about the lower body portion and the plurality of spatially disposed pleat forming members of the pleating assembly, the elongated posts having a length greater than the height of the pleating assembly such that, upon positioning a band on a distal end portion of the elongated posts, unrestricted access is

provided to the pot receiving opening in the pleating assembly while permitting the band to be disposed about the decorative pleated cover while the pot having the decorative pleated cover disposed thereabout is supported within the pot receiving opening of the pleating assembly.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the frame assembly comprises a base and an upright member supported on the base, and wherein the platform is adjustably connected to the upright member such that the distance between platform and the base of the frame assembly can be varied.

6. The apparatus on claim 5 wherein the platform further comprises a plurality of scalloped shaped portions formed about the perimeter of the opening in the platform, each of the scalloped shaped portions being alignable with a space provided between adjacently disposed pleat forming members of the pleating assembly for cooperating with the pleat forming members in the formation of pleats in the decorative pleated cover.

7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the platform is provided with an opening extending therethrough which is aligned with the pot receiving opening of the pleating assembly and wherein the platform further comprises a plurality of scalloped shaped portions formed about the perimeter of the opening in the platform, the scalloped shaped portions cooperating with the pleating assembly in

the formation of pleats in the decorative pleated cover.

8. An apparatus for forming and securing a decorative pleated cover about an outer peripheral surface of a pot, the apparatus comprising:

a frame assembly;

a platform connected to the frame assembly such that the platform extends outwardly from the frame assembly;

a pleating assembly supported on an upper surface of the platform such that the pleating assembly extends upwardly from the upper surface of the platform, the pleating assembly comprising a lower body portion and a plurality of spatially disposed pleat forming member, the pleat forming members disposed about the perimeter of the lower body portion and extending in an upwardly direction therefrom, the pleat forming members cooperating with the lower body portion of the pleating assembly to define a pot receiving opening therein, the pot receiving opening sized and configured to receive at least a lower portion of a pot; and

a banding assembly connected to the platform so as to be disposed about the pleating assembly, the banding assembly supporting at least one band thereon such that upon forming a pleated decorative cover about the

outer peripheral surface of the pot by positioning the pot and a cover forming a material within the pot receiving opening in the pleating assembly, the pleated decorative cover so formed is secured about the outer peripheral surface of the pot by removing at least one band from the banding assembly and positioning at least one band about the pleated decorative cover while the pot having the pleated decorative cover disposed thereabout is supported within the pot receiving opening and the pleating assembly.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the platform is provided with an opening extending therethrough which is aligned with the portion of the pot receiving opening defined by the lower body portion of the pleating assembly.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the platform further comprises a plurality of scalloped shaped portions formed about the perimeter of the opening in the platform, each of the scalloped shaped portions being alignable with a space provided between adjacently disposed pleat forming members of the pleating assembly for cooperating with the pleat forming members in providing pleats in the decorative pleated cover.